



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 24, 2017

**OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

Mr. Aaron Colangelo  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request EPA-HQ-2017-005678

Dear Mr. Colangelo:

This letter is a partial response to your April 3, 2017 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding the March 29, 2017 interview between Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt and radio host Hugh Hewitt.

According to your request Administrator Pruitt stated that, “one of the things we’ve done . . . is send a memo to our regions and also to headquarters to say that the days of sue and settle . . . and bypassing rulemaking entirely have ended.” Your request went on to seek:

1. The memo or memos described by Administrator Pruitt in the statement quoted above.
2. All agency documents and communications related to the memo or memos described by Administrator Pruitt in the statement quoted above.
3. Any communications with outside parties, since January 20, 2017, regarding the subject matter of the memo or memos described by Administrator Pruitt in the statement quoted above.

As you know, this FOIA request is currently in litigation; nonetheless, you requested through counsel that the EPA provide a response to Part 1. With respect to Part 1 the EPA determined that the “memo” referenced in the March 29, 2017 interview was an oral directive; thus, there are no responsive records.

If you have any further questions, please contact Assistant U.S. Attorney Dominika Tarczynska at 212-637-2748.

Sincerely,

*Jonathan Newton*

Jonathan Newton

cc: Quoc Nguyen, Office of General Counsel